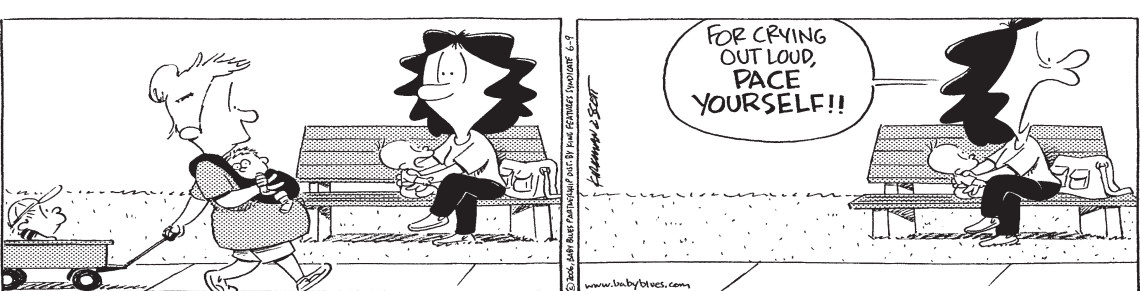


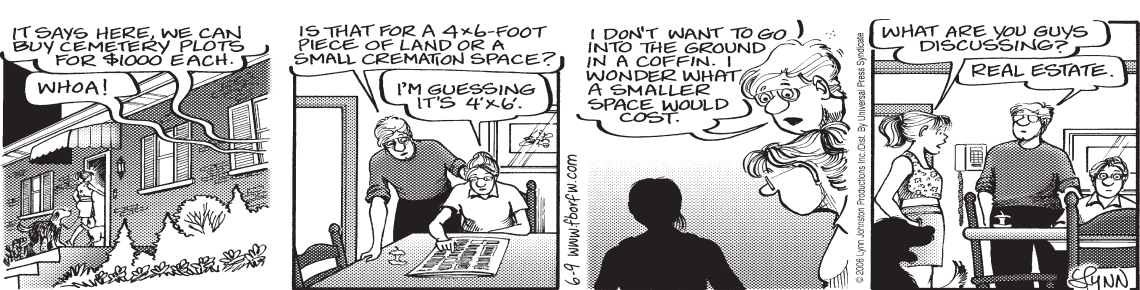
Retail • Norm Feuti (Sample)



Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott (Sample)



For Better or Worse • Lynn Johnston



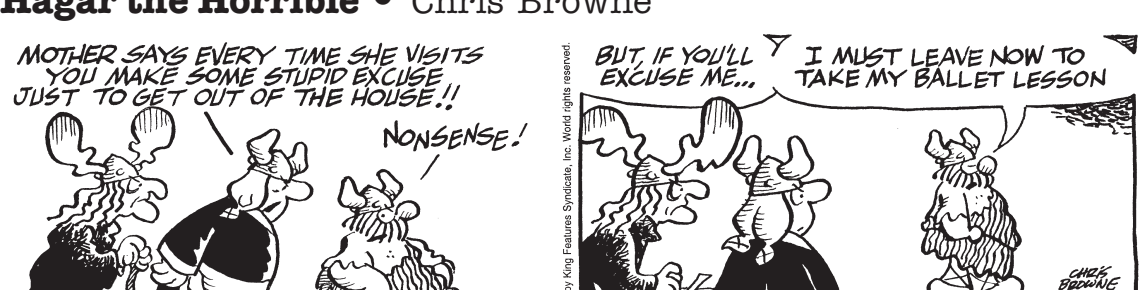
Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Garfield • Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



Blondie • Chic Young



Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Cryptoquip

K B O K A D Z D E U M T W R N A K U H K O S N
 Y O K O D S D X D M T G K G G N X T K E N . O H T S V K Q R E Q K L E Q K W Q K K ,
 K B O Z A O S O B R C T U M R C O S Z V N P N H Z M T D G P N H A T J M Z
 G K D S Y Z S O X R K T D U G B T N . L E S S Z M K A M N U T - J N - S H L G P ?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE HAM, HAVING BEEN GRAVELLY ILL BUT COMPLETELY RECOVERED, PROCLAIMED "I'M CURED!"
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals E
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE TWO YOUNG METEOROLOGISTS SPLIT UP. THEY WERE HAVING A VERY STORMY RELATIONSHIP.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals Y

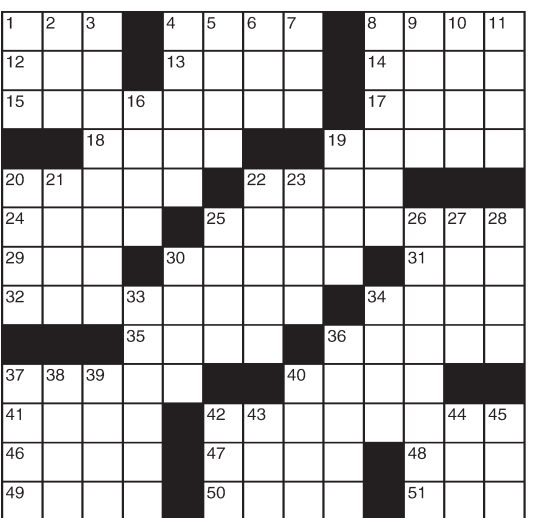
Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Ninny
 4 La Scala solo
 8 Chantilly, e.g.
 12 Stern's opposite
 13 Watson's partner
 14 Emblem
 15 Seafood picnic
 17 Flex
 18 Yuletide refrain
 19 Reacts to yeast
 20 Spread outward
 22 Dressed
 24 Remark re
 25 Suggested
 29 Tie up the phone
 30 Intonation
 31 Environment-friendly
 32 Cold symptom
 34 Injury
 35 Guy

DOWN
 1 "The View" network
 2 The sun
 3 Tchай-kovskiy classic
 4 Beatles' "Road"
 5 Verifiable
 6 Sort
 7 Pub request
 8 Freudian subject
 9 Dogfight battlers
 10 Traffic pylon
 11 Tackles' teammates
 16 Old birds of New Zealand
 19 En-grossed
 20 Emulates Simon
 21 Blueprint
 22 Frasier's last name
 23 Protracted
 25 Dr. McGraw
 26 Salt shaker?
 27 Beige
 28 Cupola
 30 Despot
 33 Pop out
 34 Hastens
 36 Organ parts
 37 Kitten's comment
 38 Birthright barterer
 39 See to
 40 "— we forget!"
 42 Now he's Barbie's friend
 43 Perfume-label word
 44 Indispensable
 45 Ram's mate

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-9

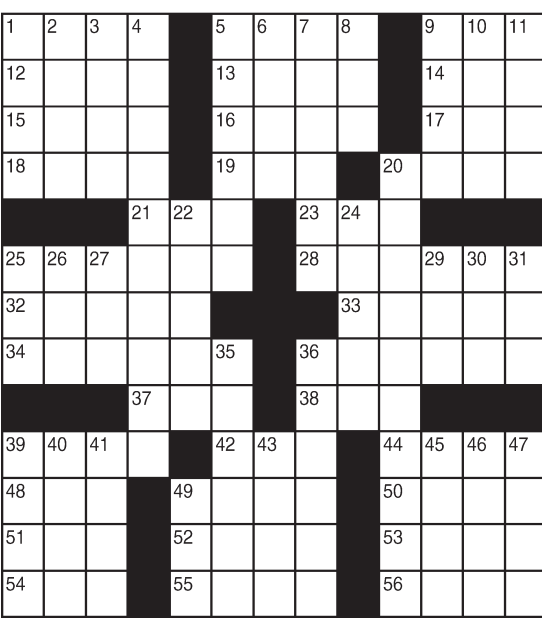


ACROSS
 1 Poet
 5 Denomination
 9 Vacationing
 12 Culture medium
 13 Tartan group
 14 Standard
 15 Mentor
 16 "— She Sweet?"
 17 Exist
 18 Appear
 19 Gun the motor
 20 LummoX
 21 See 25-
 23 Kindling, eventually
 25 Place to soak and socialize
 28 Cigar
 32 Famed firefighter
 33 Quickly

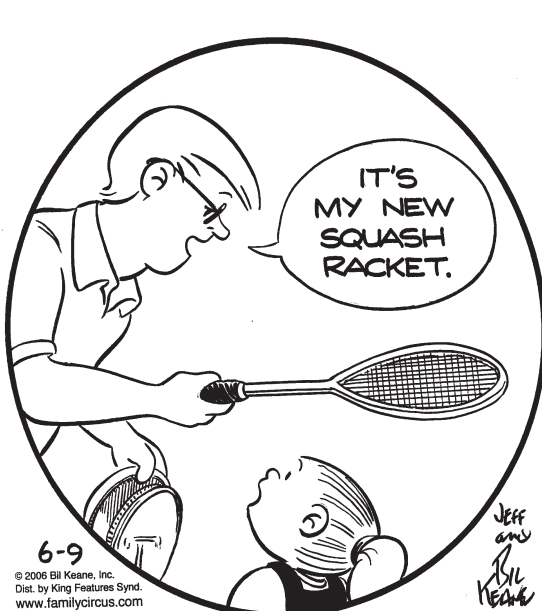
DOWN
 11 Barney's buddy
 20 Piano piece
 22 Blender setting
 24 Varnish alternative
 25 Swindled
 26 Praise in verse
 27 Greek cross
 29 Hiatus
 30 Lemieux milieu
 31 Grownup elver
 35 Representation
 36 Moved hastily
 39 Skater
 40 Acknowledge
 41 George Herman Ruth
 43 Ambience
 45 Zilch
 46 Bender
 47 Makes up one's mind
 49 Basic learning

Solution time: 27 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-10



Family Circus • Bill Keane



Bridge — Bidding Quiz

Your right-hand opponent deals and bids One Heart, neither side vulnerable. What would you bid with each of the following four hands?

- [S] 742 [H] 6 [D] AKJ3 [C] AKQ95
- [S] AQ83 [H] QJ74 [D] A6 [C] KJ6
- [S] 4 [H] 8 [D] AKQJ752 [C] AJ85
- [S] A8 [H] Q752 [D] AK [C] J7643

1. Double. The best way to show the strength of this hand is to double. An overcall of two clubs would not adequately address the game possibilities and might lead to missing a good game contract in spades, diamonds, clubs or even notrump.

It is true that a takeout double of one major suit tends to imply good support for the other, but this does not mean that such support is absolutely guaranteed. The more important consideration is to show the general strength of a hand, and the double in this case serves that purpose best. You plan to bid two clubs next over partner's anticipated spade response and in that way show your extra values.

2. One notrump. The choice here lies between a double and an overcall of one notrump. The notrump bid is preferred because it shows in one fell swoop your point count and balanced distribution.

A double could lead to trouble. If, for example, partner responded with two clubs or two diamonds, you would be faced with a difficult problem. A pass could easily turn out to be wrong, and a rebid of two notrump would be dangerous opposite a partner who might have no values. The one-notrump overcall delivers the full message, and does so at the lowest possible level.

3. Five diamonds. This is not the type of hand with which you leave the opponents room to exchange information at a low level. The leap to five diamonds is a tactical measure from both an offensive and defensive standpoint. It serves as a two-edged sword.

For example, if the opponents have a good fit in spades, they will have a tough time finding it at the five level. Also, if the opponents pass or double, it might turn out that five diamonds will make or go down a trick or two, while the opponents could have made four or five hearts or spades.

4. Pass. Lacking adequate support for spades and diamonds, it would be wrong to double, and it would be equally dangerous to overcall in clubs with such a shabby suit. The best action is to pass and hope the opponents get into trouble.

Tomorrow: Isolating the menace.
 (c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.

South dealer.
 Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
 ♠ 9 7 6 4
 ♥ A 8 5 3
 ♦ 7
 ♣ A 9 8 3

WEST
 ♠ K Q 8 5 3
 ♥ K 6 4
 ♦ A K 10 8 4
 ♣ —

EAST
 ♠ J 10 2
 ♥ J 10 9 2
 ♦ Q J 9 6 5 2
 ♣ —

SOUTH
 ♠ A
 ♥ Q 7
 ♦ 3
 ♣ K Q J 10 7 6 5 4 2

The bidding:
 South West North East
 1 ♣ 1 ♠ 2 ♣ 2 ♠
 4 ♣ 4 ♦ 5 ♣ 5 ♦
 6 ♣ Dble
 Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Many squeezes come ready-made, but in some deals declarer must do some advance preparation to create the required position.

Here is a typical case. West leads the king of diamonds and shifts to the king of spades, taken by South with the ace. At first glance, it seems declarer must sooner or later lose a heart trick and go down one. But actually, given the bidding, he is a strong favorite to make the slam.

West almost surely has five spades for his overcall, and all declarer needs in addition is for West to have the king of hearts. In that case, with proper play a squeeze is certain to develop against him later on.

Accordingly, at trick three declarer leads a trump to dummy's eight, ruffs a spade, then plays a trump to the nine and ruffs another spade. The purpose of the spade ruffs is to exhaust East of spades and so place the burden of guarding against dummy's nine solely on West.

Declarer then plays four more rounds of trumps to bring about this position:

North [S] 9 [H] A 8
 East [H] J 10 9

West [S] Q [H] K 6
 South [H] Q 7 [C] 7

South now leads his last trump, and West is helpless. If he discards a spade, declarer discards a heart from dummy; if West discards a heart, declarer discards a spade from dummy. Either way, South scores the last two tricks and makes the slam.

(c)2006 King Features Syndicate Inc.